

## Where the Princess Elizabeth becomes Queen Elizabeth S.Suradha

Elizabeth II is the longest reigning Queen of the United Kingdom and her other Realms and Territories and Head of the Commonwealth was born on 21 April 1926 as a first child of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. On 06<sup>th</sup> February 1952, she received the news of the death of her father King George VI and in the Treetop Hotel located in Nyeri, Kenya, deep inside Aberdare National Park where she spent a night with her husband Prince Philip to mark the beginning of the succession from Princess to Queen. The Silver Jubilee of the event is commemorated in this Kenyan miniature sheet which is published in the year 1977.

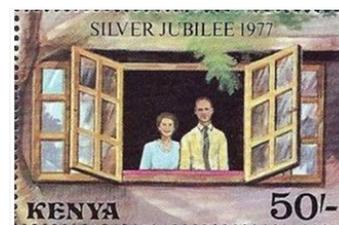


The famous hunter Jim Corbett was invited by the princess to accompany them during their stay there, has quoted that “For the first time in the history of the world, a young girl climbed into a tree one day a Princess and after having what she described as her most thrilling experience she climbed down from the tree next day a Queen...”.

The original hotel was reportedly burnt down during 1954 Mau Mau uprising by the Kenyan freedom fighters who were protesting colonial rule in Kenya. A new hotel was built on the same site a few years later. It took another decade before Kenya gained independence from British colonial rule after an emergency period that was marked by killings, torture and ill-treatment.

Seven decades after the start of the Queen's reign, the historic hotel had to be closed due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Some Kenyans have expressed condemned of the closure of the hotel, saying the government should have intervened to ensure that the hotel remains open as a national heritage site where Britain's longest-reigning monarch spent her last night as a princess.



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